(b) what is the mechanism to tap such energy;

(c) whether it is fruitful in Assam; and

(d) whether any new target for tapping more solar energy has been fixed for country under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Solar energy can be tapped through two principal routes — the thermal route for water heating, drying, cooking etc. and the photovoltaic route for converting sunlight into electricity which can be used for a variety of purposes such as lighting, pumping, communications, refrigeration and power generation. A number of solar devices have been developed for different applications and are being installed all over the country under various schemes of the Ministry. In the State of Assam, 355 solar lanterns, 1216 solar home systems, 4.50 k. Wp capacity of power plants and 188 sq. meters of collector area for water heating have been installed during the last Five Year Plan period. In addition, 11 villages have been electrified by solar home systems, street lights and other systems. The use of solar energy has been found fruitful in Assam.

(d) During the Tenth plan period, to tap more energy from the Sun, a target of 2,50,000 solar home systems, 3,00,000 solar lanterns, 8000 SPV water pumps, 7000 solar generators, 8.60 MW capacity of SPV power plants, 5,10,000 sq. m. of collector area for solar water heating systems and around 2,00,000 solar cookers has been kept for the entire country. In addition, 4000 villages are proposed to be electrified through solar energy. A 140 MW integrated combined cycle power plant with a component of 35 MW of solar thermal is also proposed to be installed at Mathania near Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Rural electrification in Bihar

†2248. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has submitted any proposal to the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Government under the rural electrification programme and integrated rural energy programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bihar/Bihar State Electricity Board have submitted two proposals for electrification of 2600 villages in Vaishali and Muzaffarpur districts and 831 villages in Sheikhpura, Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Jamui districts of Bihar through conventional grid supply. During 2002-03, Government has released an amount of Rs. 120.86 crores under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for all the six components including rural electrification. In addition, an amount of Rs. 68 crores has been released during 2002-03 under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for rural electrification. The State Government has been requested to utilize the funds released under PMGY and MNP for electrification of these villages. In addition the Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) has proposed to take up electrification of 22 villages through non-conventional energy sources, for which a survey is to be carried out by the State agency.

BREDA has also requested for release of funds under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme. The nodal agency has been advised to utilize the unspent funds available with the agency before further release of funds can be considered.

Setting up solar energy projects in Rajasthan

2249. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN "DURRU": Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated schemes to set up solar energy projects in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;